

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2660, DEPARTMENTS OF
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is an outright attack on organized labor. Ever since George Bush and his administration were put in the White House by the Supreme Court, they have done nothing but cut taxes for the rich and destroy our country's labor movement.

The regulations put forth by the administration in March to change the Fair Labor Standards Act that would deny overtime pay to over 8 million employees is shameful. These regulations would be bad for many, many people: including first responders like nurses, police and firefighters, and also journalists, accountants, grocery clerks, and others. Millions more, who have long depended upon overtime work to help make ends meet, will face pay cuts, and at the same time, opportunities to work overtime are being done away with.

I urge my colleagues to vote to instruct conferees and to block the Bush administration from going on with this terrible change which would take overtime pay away from our country's hard-working people.

ST. CLARE'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2003

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tradition that for 30 years has brought together the families of some of the most vibrant communities in my Congressional District. The people of Denville, New Jersey and its surrounding municipalities in Morris County, and all of Northern New Jersey have gathered each year to enjoy the St. Clare's Harvest Festival, a day of family fun and frolic, all for a good cause, to benefit St. Clare's Hospital which also celebrates a milestone this year by providing 50 years of loving care and service to the people of Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties in northwestern New Jersey.

The hospital was initially created to care for the nuns and guests at St. Francis Health Resort, but the Sisters saw the need for a community hospital to assist the ever increasing population of Denville. We are all glad for their vision as St. Clare's has grown into an institution that delivers the highest quality health care, teaming up to provide the best medical care for New Jerseyans with the likes of the distinguished Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Indeed, it wouldn't be Fall in Morris County without the St. Clare's Harvest Festival, but sadly, all of us who have treasured our time at the Festival know that this year it will end. On Saturday, October 4, thirty years of hard work, tireless volunteerism and good old-fashioned fun will culminate in the last Festival.

A wonderful fundraiser for the Hospital, the Harvest Festival was jointly established by the Sorrowful Mother, a Catholic order and Sister Mary Urban Harter, who incidentally is celebrating her 90th year and remains thrilled that her efforts have come this far. Each year the Festival offers delicious homemade foods, the talents of local artisans and crafts men and women, and carnival rides and petting zoos for the area's children. A day at the Festival is a day filled with memories.

These memories and the 30 years of success would not be possible without legions of incredible volunteers who have dedicated so much of their time, energy and spirit to the Festival year after year. The cooperation and teamwork between community members and St. Clare's staff—the fantastic doctors, nurses and other health care professionals—is legendary. I especially want to recognize these individuals who deserve our praise and thanks for their commitment to serving their community and helping others. So many of my constituents will warmly recall the St. Clare's Harvest Festival and those who made it possible.

Though the Harvest Festival will no longer be a "fall fixture" on the calendars of thousands of citizens in New Jersey, St. Clare's Hospital will continue to serve our communities with the same loving care and compassion it has brought to the field of health care for the last 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you join me and my colleagues in congratulating all of those associated with the St. Clare's Harvest Festival on 30 years of success and in wishing the St. Clare's Hospital family another 50 years of outstanding community service.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOSEPH F.
ALASKEY, JR.

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2003

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph F. Alaskey, Jr. On October 21st, 2003, Mr. Alaskey will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Capital District Senior Issues Forum in Albany, New York. He is being honored for his heroics and bravery during his service to this great nation in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of December 8, 1944, the 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1276th Engineer Combat Battalion, with whom Mr. Alaskey was a Utility Repairman, attempted a patrol crossing of the Roer River in Flossdorf, Germany. While they were crossing, the enemies opened nearby dams, causing the river to flood.

Mr. Speaker, with a current rushing at 9 feet per second, Mr. Alaskey's assault boat capsized, slammed into a nearby bridge, and began to sink. As many of the men in Mr. Alaskey's battalion were drowning due to the weight of ammunition strapped to their backs, Mr. Alaskey was able to hold onto a beam and pull his battalion-mate J.C. Dyer from the raging river to safety.

Mr. Speaker, such an act of valor cannot go overlooked. Risking one's life for the sake of another is the greatest gift anyone can possibly give. I am proud to rise today in honor of Mr. Alaskey and his courage. I also extend congratulations to him for this truly distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 3,
PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support a woman's right to make choices on her own behalf. Abortion should be a private decision made by the woman, with the aid of her family and her doctor. The government should stay out of private medical decisions.

Many, including myself, oppose the ban on partial-birth abortion because it may restrict the choices of a woman and her doctors in the second trimester. It is normally during this time that amniocentesis tests are given and therefore the time when fatal birth defects are usually found. We need to leave choice in the hands of the woman, especially when we are dealing with issues like fetal birth defects.

We all know that "Partial-birth" is a political term, not a medical term. This name is designed to throw fuel on the already heated abortion debate through graphic rhetoric and misinformation.

In describing what is banned, this bill does not reference a recognized, established medical procedure. In fact, the bill's language is deliberately vague—banning safe and common procedures. For example, this bill does not mention fetal viability, so it has the potential to restrict abortions throughout pregnancy. The Supreme Court has already ruled that we cannot do that. In *Roe v. Wade* and its companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, the Supreme Court held that a woman has the right to choose legal abortion until viability. The Court said that states may ban abortion after that time, as long as exceptions are made to protect a woman's life or her health. Congress simply should not be legislating on this issue. This is one issue that Congress should leave to the states.

When President Bush signs this measure, he will become the first President since *Roe v. Wade* to recriminalize safe abortion procedures. Congressional leaders are moving toward the goal of ending legal abortion. This

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